

REMARKS

Favorable consideration, examination, and allowance of the present patent application are respectfully requested in view of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks.

Allowable Subject Matter

Applicant gratefully acknowledges the indication, at page 1 the Office Action dated 26 August 2004, that the subject matters of Claims 1-22 are free of the prior art. By way of the foregoing amendments, Claim 1 has been amended to correct a typographical error, as kindly pointed out in the Office Action.

Objection to the Abstract

At page 2 of the Office Action, the Abstract was objected to because it allegedly was too long. Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of this objection.

By way of the foregoing amendment, the Abstract has been shortened and made a single paragraph.

For at least the foregoing reasons, Applicant respectfully submits that the Abstract is not objectionable, and therefore respectfully requests withdrawal of the objection thereto.

Objection to the Specification

At page 3 of the Office Action, the Specification was objected to because it failed to reference the German priority application at the first paragraph of the specification, and two of the claims were mentioned in the specification. Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of this objection.

By way of foregoing amendments, reference to the German priority application has been added in a new first paragraph of the application, and reference to Claims 1 and 12 have been deleted. Applicant notes, with respect to the addition of the paragraph referencing the priority application, that the claim for priority was properly contained in the Combined Declaration and Power of Attorney for this application. 37 C.F.R. § 1.55.

For at least the foregoing reasons, Applicant respectfully submits that the Specification is not objectionable, and therefore respectfully requests withdrawal of the objection thereto.

Comments on the Claims

Beginning at page 3 of the Office Action, the Office Action includes numerous 'suggested' changes to the claims. Applicant has carefully studied these proposals and the claimed subject matters, and while Applicant gratefully acknowledges these kind suggestions and the efforts needed to generate them, Applicant has only adopted one of the changes in Claim 1 (which corrects a typographical error).

Conclusion

Applicant respectfully submits that the present patent application is in condition for allowance. An early indication of the allowability of this patent application is therefore respectfully solicited.

If the patent examiner believes that a telephone conference with the undersigned would expedite passage of this patent application to issue, they are invited to call on the number below.

It is not believed that extensions of time are required, beyond those that may otherwise be provided for in accompanying documents. If, however, additional extensions of time are necessary to prevent abandonment of this application, then such extensions of time are hereby petitioned under 37 C.F.R. § 1.136(a), and the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge fees necessitated by this paper, and to credit all refunds and overpayments, to our Deposit Account 50-2821.

Respectfully submitted,

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